

DR. REX ALBERT WHITING



Rex A. Whiting was born on March 25, 1918, to Bert Whiting and Sarah Nielson, at Mapleton, Utah. He attended elementary school at Mapleton and junior and senior high school in Springville, Utah. He graduated from high school in 1936 and also graduated from the Kolob Stake Seminary during his high school years. From Brigham Young University he received two years of pre-dental education and from there continued his education at the University of

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Southern California, where he received the degree of doctor of dental surgery in 1942.

It was during his last year of dental college that he met and married Florine Merrell of Phoenix, Arizona.

In 1943 he entered the U. S. navy as an assistant dental surgeon, with the rank of lieutenant, junior grade. After receiving indoctrination in the navy at the naval ship yard at Mare Island, California, he was sent to the Solomon Island area of war in the South Pacific, where he served until the end of the war as a dentist attached to Fleet Hospital 107.

Upon his release from the navy he, with his wife and little girl, Carol, born while he was in the South Pacific, moved to Heber City, Wasatch County, Utah, where he practiced his profession of dentistry. In Heber, three more children were born to this family, one boy and two girls, Kirk, Anne and Kay. While in Heber he was active in the LDS Church, being superintendent of Heber First Ward Sunday School and later ward clerk of that ward. He was a member of the American Legion, VFW, Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Provo District Dental Society, Utah Dental Assn. and the American Dental Assn.

Midway's Honored Citizens For 1991

This year the Midway Boosters are pleased to sponsor as Midway's Honored Citizens for 1991 LaVon and Thelma Hair.

LaVon was born in Heber City, Utah to Holland and Dora Hair. He was a very small child when his family moved to Midway, where he has lived ever since. His great-grandfather, grandfather, and father were all barbers and cut hair in the small building attached to the old Social Hall--now the Stake Cannery. LaVon has many memories and stories of growing up in early Midway. He remembers dances at the old Social Hall and being baptized in the Buchler Hot Pots.

Thelma was born in Heber to Mr. and Mrs. Parley Madsen. As a child, her family moved to Springville where she grew up. Her father was a forest ranger and the family moved back to Midway when she was a young woman.

LaVon and Thelma met at a dance at the old Social Hall. They courted for two years before marrying and have been married for 51 years. They have a daughter Lonnie, a son Von, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A friend once told them that what they lacked in quantity with their family, they made up for in quality.

LaVon has always been involved in church and civic activities. He has been, among other things, scoutmaster and stake clerk for the LDS Church. He was secretary of the Boosters with Myron Gale as president and has always participated in Booster affairs. He worked in the Park City mines, and then for Utah Power and Light for 37 years. Thelma also has been active in the LDS Church serving as an officer or teacher in all auxiliaries. She taught at the old North School and was a teacher's aid at Central School.

LaVon and Thelma have always worked together and played together. They built their home together 51 years ago. Their family has always enjoyed rock hunting--their greatest interest.

LaVon is a multi-talented individual and has taught himself to

oil paint, to make china and porcelain figurines, and rock jewelry and furniture. He is a fine musician and played the banjo in Karl Probst's Minsterals and the North Brothers Band. He is also famous for his "singing saw" talent.

LaVon and Thelma were among the first to have a booth at Harvest Days--now known as Swiss Days. They probably hold the record for the most years with a booth at Swiss Days. They sold their rock jewelry and furniture as well as their porcelain figurines.

LaVon and Thelma are great boosters of Midway. They love Midway and always want to live there. Everywhere they go they tell people of Midway and what a wonderful place it is. LaVon and Thelma are great ambassadors for our city, and we are proud to have them as this year's Honored Citizens.



Thelma and LaVon Hair

*See lapidary file
for better
picture*

